

CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented). A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second mating jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position in which the jaws are substantially parallel, the jaw members having insulated outer surface with convex, opposed and facing mating surfaces, each mating surface having a central peak, the central peak of the first jaw being aligned with the central peak of the second jaw;

a first elongated electrically conductive ablation member carried by the first jaw member so as to provide electrical current generally along the central peak to tissue clamped between the jaw members;

a second elongated electricity conductive ablation member carried by the second jaw member so as to provide electrical current generally along the central peak to tissue clamped between the jaw members;

the first and second conductive ablation members being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source; and

one of the first and second mating jaw members having at least one thermocouple disposed for measuring the temperature of tissue held between the jaw members, the thermocouple being adapted to be connected to a remote monitoring device.

2. (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the electrodes are between approximately 3 to 8 cm in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

3. (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the electrodes comprise gold-plated copper.

4. (Currently Amended). A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:

first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, the jaws being substantially parallel in the closed position to compress tissue therebetween; each jaw including a conductive ablation member and a receding clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the conductive ablation member and receding clamping surface of the other jaw; the receding clamping surfaces of the jaws each defining a surface of varying distance from the ~~respective electrode~~ conductive ablation member comprising an insulating material and the face-to-face conductive ablation members being connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current through tissue clamped between the jaws; one of the first and second grasping jaws having at least one thermocouple disposed

for measuring the temperature of tissue held between the grasping jaws, the thermocouple being adapted to be connected to a remote monitoring device.

5. (Original). The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the electrodes are between approximately 3 to 8 cm in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

6. (Original). The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the electrodes comprise gold-plated copper.

7. (Currently Amended). A tissue clamping device comprising first and second jaw members movable between an open position for receiving tissue therebetween and a clamping position for compressing the tissue therebetween, ~~at least one of the jaw members including at least one thermocouple located to measure the temperature of tissue held between the jaw members when in the clamped position~~ each jaw having a single electrode generally centered on the respective jaw and a temperature sensor laterally spaced from the respective electrode so that in the clamping position the temperature sensors are on opposite sides of the electrodes.